



# THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA

OFFICE OF LEGAL SERVICES, ACCESS & FAIRNESS PROGRAMS

Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services

Chair, Carl R. Poirot, San Diego

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June 2004

Dear Newly Admitted Attorney:

On behalf of the Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services, congratulations on being admitted to the State Bar of California! As you embark on what will surely be a fulfilling and successful legal career, please consider the advantages pro bono work offers as part of your professional development and responsibility. In addition to fulfilling an important professional responsibility, doing pro bono work is a rewarding experience that can truly make a difference in the lives you touch.

## **There are many benefits to doing pro bono work:**

- ☞ Gain valuable legal experience and litigation skills
- ☞ Make contacts with other attorneys and judges that can enhance your professional growth and career opportunities
- ☞ Improve the public's image of attorneys and the legal profession
- ☞ Obtain MCLE credit by attending free or reduced rate training programs offered by qualified legal services providers in exchange for your pro bono work
- ☞ Have malpractice coverage for your pro bono service
- ☞ Use your legal skills and knowledge to make a difference for someone who would not otherwise have access to legal assistance

**The need for pro bono is great.** While the low-income population continues to grow in California, funding to provide legal services has not kept pace. Today only 28% of the civil legal needs of the state's poor are being met, with only one paid legal services staff attorney for every 10,000 poor Californians.

**The State Bar of California urges all attorneys to contribute at least 50 hours of pro bono legal services each year.** In 1989, the State Bar Board of Governors adopted its first Pro Bono Resolution. In June 2002, the resolution was amended to reflect an updated and renewed commitment to pro bono and to strengthen the original resolution. The State Bar [Pro Bono Resolution](#) can be viewed by clicking on the link. The American Bar Association and most other state bar associations across the country have adopted similar resolutions, recognizing pro bono as an important professional responsibility.

To obtain the names of pro bono programs in your community or for more information about pro bono participation, please contact Rodney Low (rodney.low@calbar.ca.gov/415-538-2219) or Sharon Ngim (sharon.ngim@calbar.ca.gov/415-538-2267) at the State Bar Office of Legal Services, Access & Fairness Programs.

Yours very truly,

Carl R. Poirot  
Chair, Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services

Enclosure: State Bar Pro Bono Resolution